

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for dispensing optical storage media from a kiosk, remote from a system server and communicatively connected to said system server, said system comprising:
 - a first central processing unit in said kiosk;
 - a database including information representative of kiosk inventory and accessible by a user via a kiosk interface and the Internet;
 - a first set of instructions for directing said first central processing unit to:
 - request billing information from said user, including a user-specified e-mail address;
 - respond to a user request from the Internet or from said kiosk interface, to identify inventory in said kiosk;
 - receive (a) a request for an optical storage media and (b) said billing information; from said user,
 - transmit said billing information to said system server for confirmation,
 - receive said confirmation of billing from said system server, and
 - dispense said requested optical storage media to said user;
 - a first media readable by said first central processing unit for storing said first set of instructions;
 - a second central processing unit in said system server;
 - a second set of instructions for directing said second central processing unit to:
 - receive said billing information from said first central processing unit,
 - perform a credit verification routine on a credit account in said billing information,
 - transmit said confirmation to said first central processing unit responsive to a verification of credit account, and
 - transmit an electronic receipt for said transaction to said user specified e-mail address in said billing information; and

a second media readable by said second central processing unit for storing said second set of instructions.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said first set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said first central processing unit to:

read data from one of said optical storage media stored in said kiosk; and
display said data on a display in said kiosk.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said first set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said first central processing unit to:

receive a returned optical media from said user,
identify said returned optical media, and
transmit identity of said returned optical media to said system server.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3 further comprising:
an optical reading device.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 wherein said first set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said first central processing unit to:

read said returned optical media, and
detect an error in data stored on said returned media.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein said first set of instructions further comprise:

generating a recording indicating said optical storage media contains an error responsive
to detection of said error.

7. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein said first set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said first processing unit to:

receive a signal from said user that said returned optical media contains an error.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7 wherein receiving said signal comprises determining a position of a user-actuatable toggle mechanism on a casing that is returned with said returned optical media.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
a plurality of optical storage media each storing data for a particular program;
a storage carousel in said kiosk for storing said plurality of optical storage media; and
wherein said kiosk inventory comprises an inventory of said plurality of optical storage media and said first instructions further comprise instructions for maintaining said kiosk inventory.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein said first instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said first central processing unit to:
remove a one of said optical storage media from said kiosk inventory responsive to
dispensing said one of said plurality of optical storage media.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein said first instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said first central processing unit to:
add a one of said plurality of said optical storage media to said kiosk inventory response
to receiving said one of said plurality of optical storage media from said user.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein said first instructions further comprise:

transmitting an update of said kiosk inventory to said second central processing unit
responsive to said first central processing unit updating said kiosk inventory.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
a media polishing mechanism associated with said kiosk.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 further comprising.
an optical reading mechanism in said kiosk; and
wherein said first set of instructions further comprise instructions for directing said first
central processing unit to:
read said optical storage media,
perform an error checking routine on said optical storage media, and
generate an indicia of an error on said optical storage media responsive to
detecting an error in said optical storage media.
15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 wherein said first set of
instructions further comprise:
instructions directing said first central processing unit to:
display a warning to insert said optical media device into said media polishing
mechanism.
16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 wherein said first set of
instructions further comprise:
instructions for directing said first central processing unit to insert said optical storage
media in said media polishing mechanism responsive to said indicia of said error.
17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 wherein said first instructions
further comprise:
instructions for directing said first processor to perform said error checking routine
responsive to said optical storage media being polished.
18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said second set of
instructions further comprise:
instructions for directing said second central processing unit to:
open a transaction responsive to receiving said billing information from said first
processing unit.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18 wherein said second set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said second central processing unit to:

receive a message indicating said optical storage media has been returned to said kiosk, and
close said transaction responsive to receiving said message.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said second set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said second central processing unit to:

maintain an inventory of optical storage media in said kiosk in said database.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20 wherein said second set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said second central processing unit to:

provide access to said database to a third central processing unit.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said second set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said second central processing unit to maintain a user profile of users.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein said second set of instructions further comprises:

instructions for directing said second central processing unit to record information of each said optical storage media that said user requests.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein said second set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said second central processing unit to:

read said user profile,
determine which type of optical storage media said user prefers, and
transmit advertisements for optical storage media of types said user prefers to said
kiosk.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
an internet service provider;
a third central processing unit in said internet service provider;
a third set of instructions for directing said third central processing unit to transmit
messages between said first central processing unit and said second -central
processing unit;
a third storage media readable by said third central processing unit for storing said third
set of instructions;
wherein said first set of instructions include instructions for directing said first central
processing unit to insert data for said second central processing unit in messages,
transmit said messages to said third central processing unit, receive messages
from said third central processing unit, and read data from said received
messages; and
wherein said second set of instructions include instructions for directing said second
central processing unit to insert data for said first central processing unit into said
messages, transmit said message to said third central processing unit, to receive
said messages from said third central processing unit, and remove data from said
messages.

27. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
an media identification reader in said kiosk that is operable to detect an identification
marking on said optical storage media.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 wherein said first set of
instructions include:
instructions for directing said first central processing unit to:

read said identification marking on said optical storage media using said media identification reader, and
identify said optical storage media.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28 wherein said first set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said first central processing unit to:

maintain a record of a position of said optical recording storage media in said kiosk based upon said identification of said optical storage media.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 wherein said identification marking on said optical storage media includes a concentric marking around a center of said optical storage media.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30 wherein said concentric marking is a bar code.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein said media identification reader is a bar code scanner.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
an optical writing system that writes optical data to said optical storage media;
wherein said first set of instructions include instructions for directing said first central processing unit to:

transmit a request data to store on said optical storage media to said second central processing unit,

receive said data from said second central processing unit, and

write said data to said optical storage media; and

wherein said second set of instructions include instructions for directing said second central processing unit to:

receive said request for said data,

retrieve said data, and

transmit said data to said first central processing unit.

34. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said receipt includes advertisements.
35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34, wherein said advertisements are promotions for optical media available at said kiosk.
36. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said receipt includes a link to a file maintained on an Internet server.
37. (Original) The system of claim 36 wherein said file is a home page.
38. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein said home page includes information about promotions offered by said system.
39. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
a casing dispenser that dispensing a casing for said optical media to said user.
40. (Original) The system of claim 39 wherein said casing comprises:
a storage compartment for said disk;
a pre-metered stamp to allow said casing to be mailed; and
a preprinted address.
41. (Original) The system of claim 39 wherein said casing further includes:
an identifier.
42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41 wherein said kiosk further comprises:
a retrieval slot configured to receive a casing;
a reader proximate said retrieval slot; and
wherein said first set of instructions include instructions for directing said first central processing unit to:
read said identifier from said casing,
determine whether said optical storage media in said casing belongs to said system, and
opening said retrieval slot responsive to a determination that said optical storage media belongs to said system.

43. (Currently Amended) A method for dispensing optical storage media from a kiosk, remote from a system server and communicatively connected to said system server, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a user with information representative of inventory of said kiosk, said inventory information contained in a database that is user-accessible (a) ~~at~~from said kiosk and (b) over the Internet;

requesting billing information from said user, including a user-specified e-mail address;

receiving (a) a request for an optical storage media and (b) said billing information, including said user-specified e-mail address, from a user at said kiosk;

transmitting said billing information to said system server for confirmation;

receiving said billing information in said system server;

performing a credit verification routine on a credit account in said billing information with said system server;

transmitting said confirmation from said system server to said kiosk responsive to a verification of credit account;

transmitting an electronic receipt for said transaction to said user specified e-mail address received in said billing information;

receiving said confirmation of billing from said system server in said kiosk; and

dispensing said requested optical storage media to said user.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43 further comprising the steps of:

reading data from said optical storage media stored in said kiosk; and

displaying said data on a display in said kiosk.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a returned optical media from said user in said kiosk;

identifying said returned optical media; and

transmitting an identity of said returned optical media to said system server.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45 further comprising the steps of:

reading data from said returned optical media in said kiosk; and

detecting an error in data stored on said returned optical media.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46 further comprising the step of:
generating a recording indicating said optical storage media contains an error responsive
to detection of said error.
48. (Original) The method of claim 45 further comprising the steps of:
receiving a signal from said user that said returned optical media contains an error.
49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, receiving said signal comprising:
determining a position of a user-actuable toggle mechanism on a casing that is returned with said
returned optical media.
50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 further comprising the step of:
storing a plurality of optical storage media in said kiosk wherein each of said plurality of
optical storage media stores data for a particular program; and
maintaining an inventory of said plurality of optical storage media in said database.
51. (Original) The method of claim 50 further comprising the step of:
removing a one of said optical storage media from said inventory responsive to
dispensing said one of said plurality of optical storage media.
52. (Original) The method of claim 50 further comprising the steps of:
adding a one of said plurality of said optical storage media to said inventory response to
receiving said one of said plurality of optical storage media in said kiosk from
said user.
53. (Original) The method of claim 50 further comprising the step of:
transmitting an update of said inventory to said system server responsive to said kiosk
updating said inventory.
54. (Original) The system of claim 43 further comprising the step of:
providing a media polishing mechanism associated with said kiosk.
55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 54 further comprising the step of:
reading said optical storage media;

performing an error checking routine on said optical storage media; and
generating an indicia of an error on said optical storage media responsive to detecting an
error in said optical storage media.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55 further comprising the step of:
displaying a warning to insert said optical media device into said media polishing
mechanism.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55 further comprising the step of:
inserting said optical storage media in said media polishing mechanism responsive to said
indicia of said error.

58. (Original) The method of claim 57 further comprising the step of:
performing said error checking routine responsive to said optical storage media being
polished.

59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43 further comprising the ~~steps~~step
of:
opening a transaction record in said system server responsive to receiving said billing
information.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 further comprising the steps of:
transmitting a message from said kiosk to said system server responsive to receiving said
optical storage media in said kiosk wherein said message indicates said optical
storage media has been returned to said kiosk;
receiving a message indicating said optical storage media has been returned to said kiosk,
and
closing said transaction record responsive to receiving said message.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 further comprising the step of:
maintaining said inventory database at said system server, said inventory database
representing optical storage media in said kiosk.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61 further comprising the step of:

providing access to said inventory database to a user via a web page.

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Original) The method of claim 43 further comprising the step of:
maintaining a user profile of said user in said system server.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, further comprising the step of:
recording information of each said optical storage media that said user requests in said
user profile.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65 further comprising the steps of:
reading said user profile;
determining which type of optical storage media said user prefers;
transmitting advertisements for optical storage media of types said users prefer to said
kiosk; and
displaying said advertisements at said kiosk.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 further comprising the steps of:
generating messages containing information for said system server in said kiosk;
transmitting said messages to Internet service provider;
transmitting said messages from said Internet service provider to said system server;
receiving said messages in said system server; and
reading data from said received messages in said system server.

68. (Original) The method of claim 43 further comprising the steps of:
transmitting messages containing data for said kiosk from said system server to an
Internet service provider;
receiving said messages in said Internet service provider;
transmitting said messages from said Internet service provider to said kiosk; and
removing data from said messages in said kiosk.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 further comprising the step of:

reading an identification marking on said optical storage media using a media identification reader in said kiosk; and
identifying said optical storage media.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69 further comprising the step of: maintaining a record of a position of said optical storage media in said kiosk based upon said identification of said optical storage media.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70 wherein said step of reading said identification marking on said optical storage media includes:
reading a concentric marking around a center of said optical storage media.

72. (Original) The method of claim 71 wherein step of reading said concentric marking includes:
reading a bar code printed concentrically around said optical storage media with a bar code scanner in said kiosk.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 further comprising the step of: transmitting a request for data to said system server from said kiosk;
receiving said data in said kiosk from said system server; and
writing said data to said optical storage media.

74. (Original) The method of claim 73 further comprising the steps of:
receiving said request for said data from said kiosk in said system server;
retrieving said data; and
transmitting said data from said system server to said kiosk.

75. (Original) The method of claim 43 wherein said receipt includes advertisements.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein said advertisements are promotions for optical media available at said kiosk.

77. (Original) The method of claim 43 wherein said receipt includes a link to a file maintained on an Internet server.

78. (Original) The method of claim 77 wherein said file is a home page.
79. (Original) The method of claim 78 wherein said home page includes information about promotions offered by said system.
80. (Original) The method of claim 43 further comprising the step of:
dispensing a casing for said optical media to said user.
81. (Original) The method of claim 80 further comprising the step of:
stamping said casing with pre-metered postage to allow said casing to be mailed; and
printing a postal address on said casing.
82. (Original) The method of claim 80 further comprising the step of:
including an identifier on said casing.
83. (Original) The method of claim 82 further comprising the steps of:
reading said identifier from said casing,
determining whether said optical storage media in said casing belongs to said system, and
opening a retrieval slot configured to receive said casing responsive to a determination
that said optical storage media belongs to said system.
84. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said kiosk inventory
information is viewable at the kiosk interface and over the Internet.
85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, further comprising reserving said
requested optical storage media at said kiosk for a time period, wherein dispensing comprises
dispensing said reserved optical storage media to said user when said user visits said kiosk
during said time period.
86. (New) The system of claim 1, said system server operable to adjust a rental price
of optical recorded media in said kiosk based upon market conditions local to said kiosk.